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ABSTRACT

The socioeconomic condition of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians was surveyed in the fall of 1968. Using a questionnaire, 570 Choctaw households in 7 communities were interviewed by Choctaw Agency personnel. Information gathered included population figures by age, sex, and residence; educational attainment, aspirations, and use of English; present occupation, occupational aspirations, and cash income per household; and social and economic relations. The intent of this report was to present the socioeconomic condition of the Choctaw people in statistical form to be of value (1) to officials of the Choctaw Tribe and the Choctaw Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and (2) to vocational educators who have recognized the need for detailed information about specific populations in order to plan vocational programs at the local level. Included in the report are 42 tables. (JH)

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June, 1970

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAW INDIANS

by

John H. Peterson, Jr.

RC005300

Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational-Technical Education
Social Science Research Center
Mississippi State University

PREFACE

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Mississippi State University supports various projects in its program of research in OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT. Each of these projects is focused upon the derivation of information that will be useful in the development of human resources. Information derived thus far in this research program is included in the following publications:

1. INFLUENTIAL FACTORS CONCERNING HUMAN RESOURCES IN MISSISSIPPI, by James E. Wall. Preliminary Report 11, Education Series 1.

2. RESEARCH IN HOME ECONOMICS GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT: FIVE PILOT PROJECTS IN MISSISSIPPI -- 1965-66, by Mildred R. Witt and James E. Wall. Preliminary Report 15, Education Series 2.

3. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND COMPETENCY NEEDS IN NONFARM AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS IN MISSISSIPPI, by James E. Wall, Obed L. Snowden, and A. G. Shepherd, Jr. Preliminary Report 16, Education Series 3.

4. EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS, EXPECTATIONS, AND ABILITIES OF RURAL MALE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS IN MISSISSIPPI, by James F. Shill. Report 24, Education Series 4.

5. CAREERS OF RURAL MALE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS IN MISSISSIPPI: A STUDY OF OCCUPATIONAL INTERESTS, ASPIRATIONS, AND EXPECTATIONS, by James F. Shill. Report 26, Education Series 5.

6. SELF-APPRAISAL OF VOCATIONAL- TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN MISSISSIPPI BY LOCAL SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND INSTRUCTORS, by Arthur R. Jones, Jr. Report 30. Education Series 6.

7. OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT: A PROGRAM AND BIBLIOGRAPHY, by James E. Wall and James F. Shill. Administrative Report 3, Education Series 7.

8. EDUCATIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL PROFILES OF BUSINESS EDUCATION GRADUATES OF MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY: 1960-1968, by Shirley T. Alcantara. Report 32, Education Series 8.

9. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAW INDIANS, by John H. Peterson, Jr. Report 34, Education Series 9.

This bulletin on the Mississippi Choctaw population contains basic statistical information of value in planning vocational education and other programs.

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FORWARD

The collection and analysis of data presented in this report were made possible by the concerted efforts of a great many people. Superintendents of the Choctaw Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Mr. James B. Hale and Mr. John F. Gordon and Choctaw officials, Mr. Emmett York and Mr. Philip Martin gave their fullest cooperation and encouragement to this project. Personnel of the Choctaw Agency undertook all the field interviewing and assisted with editing of the questionnaires in addition to carrying out their regular duties. Dr. James E. Wall of the Mississippi State Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education helped secure funds for the analysis of the data, and the staff of the Social Science Research Center, Mississippi State University, contributed expert advice and assistance. Finally, and most important, this study could not have been completed without the cooperation and support of the Choctaw people themselves.

INTRODUCTION

This report consists of a statistical presentation of the social-economic condition of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. As such, it is designed to be of use to two discrete audiences.

First, it is hoped that the information contained in this report will be of value to the officials of the Choctaw Tribe and the Choctaw Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Recognizing the need for more detailed information about the Choctaw people, personnel of the Choctaw Agency, with the cooperation of Tribal officials, undertook a detailed survey of all Choctaw households within the Agency service area. It is hoped that the information derived from this survey will not only facilitate planning for existing programs, but it also will provide necessary information for the development of new programs to better serve the Choctaw people.

Second, vocational educators also have recognized the need for detailed information about specific populations in order to plan vocational education programs at the local level. Seeing that the survey of the Choctaw population represented one of the more detailed surveys of a rural disadvantaged population, the Research Coordinating Unit for Vocational Education of the State of Mississippi agreed to support the statistical analysis of the Choctaw survey. It is hoped that the results of this analysis will demonstrate the types of information that can be used by vocational educators in planning vocational education programs for a specific target population. The implications of this type of information for vocational education programs as well as a statement as to how this information may be gathered will be presented in another publication.

While the intent of this report is to present the socio-economic condition of the Choctaw people in statistical form, readers unfamiliar with the Choctaws may be better able to understand the data presented if they are acquainted with the Choctaws themselves and the survey through which the data were gathered.

The Mississippi Choctaws

The Mississippi Choctaws comprised the largest tribe of Indians inhabiting Mississippi prior to White settlement. Living primarily from agricultural pursuits, the Choctaws quickly adopted many ideas from Europeans; for example, they established their own school system. The Choctaws are proud of the fact that they never bore arms against the United States, fighting on the side of the United States both in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Nevertheless, as settlers demanded more land for settlement, most of the Choctaws, along with other tribes from the southeast were forced to migrate to Oklahoma.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, as they are legally known, are the descendants of those Choctaws who chose to remain in

Mississippi during the period of Indian removals of the early Nineteenth Century. Their forefathers either failed to receive land under the treaty of Indian removal or lost possession of land they did receive, and some time after the Civil War, most Choctaws became sharecroppers for White landlords. Although some Choctaws live in all parts of the State of Mississippi, most live in seven scattered rural communities centered around Philadelphia, Mississippi, their traditional homeland. Throughout most of their recent history, the Choctaws have continued to live as a small isolated rural minority in an area where the dominant population is composed of Negroes and Whites. The Choctaws maintained their ethnic identity and their language by purposely not interacting with Negroes and Whites. While this separation preserved their identity as an ethnic group, it isolated them from many of the developments that were taking place in the greater society.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs began working with the Choctaws in 1918. The lack of funds for carrying out the Bureau's program, however, resulted in the majority of Choctaws continuing as sharecroppers or as small farmers on Tribal land purchased by the government. The educational level remained very low. Although Choctaw schools were established in 1920, a high school for Choctaw students was not completed until 1964. Prior to this time, almost no Choctaw students completed high school. Many dropped out of school even before completing the grades that were available. Handicapped by a lack of ability to use English and a low educational level, Choctaws were prepared to work only as farmers of common laborers. As a result of their low skill level and lack of knowledge about conditions outside their immediate area, few Choctaws attempted to migrate elsewhere. Those who did, usually received only the most menial of jobs.

Within the past ten years, the improvement of the Choctaw school system and agricultural developments in the area have brought about great changes. As a result of the decline in profits for small farming operations, many older Choctaws were forced out of farming and found themselves unable to find regular wage employment because of their lack of training, lack of English, and poor physical condition. Many of these people currently exist as underemployed agricultural day laborers.

Most younger Choctaws have a better command of English and more education than their fathers, but as a result of the continuing high dropout rate in the Choctaw schools, many younger Choctaws remain at a disadvantage in the labor market, both locally or in other areas to which they migrate. These younger Choctaws secure semi-skilled or unskilled jobs in local manufacturing plants or agribusinesses such as poultry, dairy, or lumber operations. Some migrate to urban centers. The increasing numbers of Choctaw students finishing high school have great difficulties in finding suitable local employment and are leaving the area in increasing numbers. The Choctaws need to upgrade the skill level of both high school dropouts and older Choctaws. At the same time more local jobs are needed that could utilize workers with higher skill levels. Jobs also are needed which would attract Choctaw young people with higher educational attainment to remain in the local area.

The statement of these problems should not obscure the fact that the Choctaws have made great progress in the past few years. But the progress that has been made only emphasizes that the next few years may well be decisive. Will increasing skill level and local job opportunities produce accelerated progress in the Choctaw communities, or will better trained Choctaws be forced to increasingly seek employment elsewhere, leaving the Choctaw communities without the services of some of their younger, better educated members?

In a sense, this is the problem that faces most rural areas in the United States today, but it appears to be somewhat more critical for the Choctaws than for certain other groups, for upon its solution depends, in the long run, the very existence of the Mississippi Choctaws. It would be tragic if the inability to solve the problems brought about by opportunity should weaken the Choctaw communities which survived over a hundred years of little or no opportunity. The Choctaw people are proud of their identity as Choctaws and are strongly attached to their communities, their families, and kinsmen. It would be hoped that this pride and attachment, together with increased training and local employment opportunity would permit the Choctaw people to both strengthen their own communities and at the same time make a greater contribution to the wider society as they did during the early history of this country.

The Choctaw Survey of 1968

In 1962, personnel of the Choctaw Agency, with the assistance of Dr. Wilfrid C. Bailey of Mississippi State University, surveyed the socio-economic condition of approximately 65 per cent of the Choctaw people. By 1968, changes in Choctaw society had rendered this data obsolete for planning purposes and the decision was made to undertake a new survey. A new questionnaire was designed incorporating questions from the 1962 survey as well as additional questions required by the Agency. Using this questionnaire, personnel of the Choctaw Agency interviewed 570 Choctaw households in the immediate service area of the Choctaw Agency, as indicated on the map on page 7. Every effort was made to contact all Choctaw households within this area.

Interviewing was carried out in the fall of 1968. Completed interviews were checked against family census cards and other records of the Choctaw Agency both to insure the accuracy of the recorded information and to identify households and individuals who had been missed by the interviewers. Upon completion of double-checking and editing, questionnaires were taken to Mississippi State University for coding and machine analysis.

Accuracy of the Data

While every effort was made to insure that all Choctaw households in the Agency service area were interviewed, it is certain that the Choctaw population is to some extent under-represented in the statistics presented in this report. This under-representation occured for two reasons. In the first place, there are some Choctaw families living

outside the established Choctaw communities and having little or no contact with either Tribal or Agency officials. The names of such isolated Choctaws might not be found on the Tribal voter list or previous Agency survey lists which comprised the initial interview list. These families could also have been known to Choctaws in each community who double-checked the interview list. To our knowledge, only five households were not surveyed; however, there is no way of knowing how many other isolated households might have been missed.

A second cause of under-representation is inter-household movement. Many Choctaw households are overcrowded and household members frequently move to a related household. Family census cards were checked to minimize population loss through inter-household migration. Where it was discovered that individuals or families had been missed in initial interviewing, their location was verified and data concerning them was added to the appropriate questionnaire. In spite of this check, it is certain that some individuals and families who should be considered members of interviewed households were missed.

For these reasons, any figures giving total numbers of Choctaws should be viewed as the minimum total number of Choctaws in contact with the Choctaw Agency or Tribe. True population figures should be somewhat higher. Considering the size of the population surveyed, percentages will be less effected by this under-enumeration than will total numbers.

Use of the Tables

Where appropriate, tables on the following pages give information about both individual Choctaw communities as well as for the Choctaw population as a whole. Individual communities are indicated in the tables by initials. These initials refer to the following Choctaw communities:

P.R.	Pearl River community in northwest Neshoba County
B.C.	Bogue Chitto community in eastern Neshoba County and extending into adjacent portions of Winston, Noxubee and Kemper counties
T.	Tucker community in southeastern Neshoba County
R.W.	Red Water community near Carthage in Leake County
S.P.	Standing Pine community in southeastern Leake County
C.	Connehatta community in northwestern Newton County
B.H.	Bogue Homo community in northeastern Jones County

Two additional groups of Choctaws were not considered part of these seven communities in constructing tables, unless specifically noted.

These are the 15 household Choctaw community located near Pineville, Mississippi, and the 42 household Choctaw group who were undergoing vocational training in the RCA Training Center in the Pearl River community. These households are included wherever statistics are given for the Choctaw population as a whole.

When comparable information was available from the 1962 survey, it was included in order to indicate the changes taking place in Choctaw society.

THE MISSISSIPPI CHOCTAW POPULATION

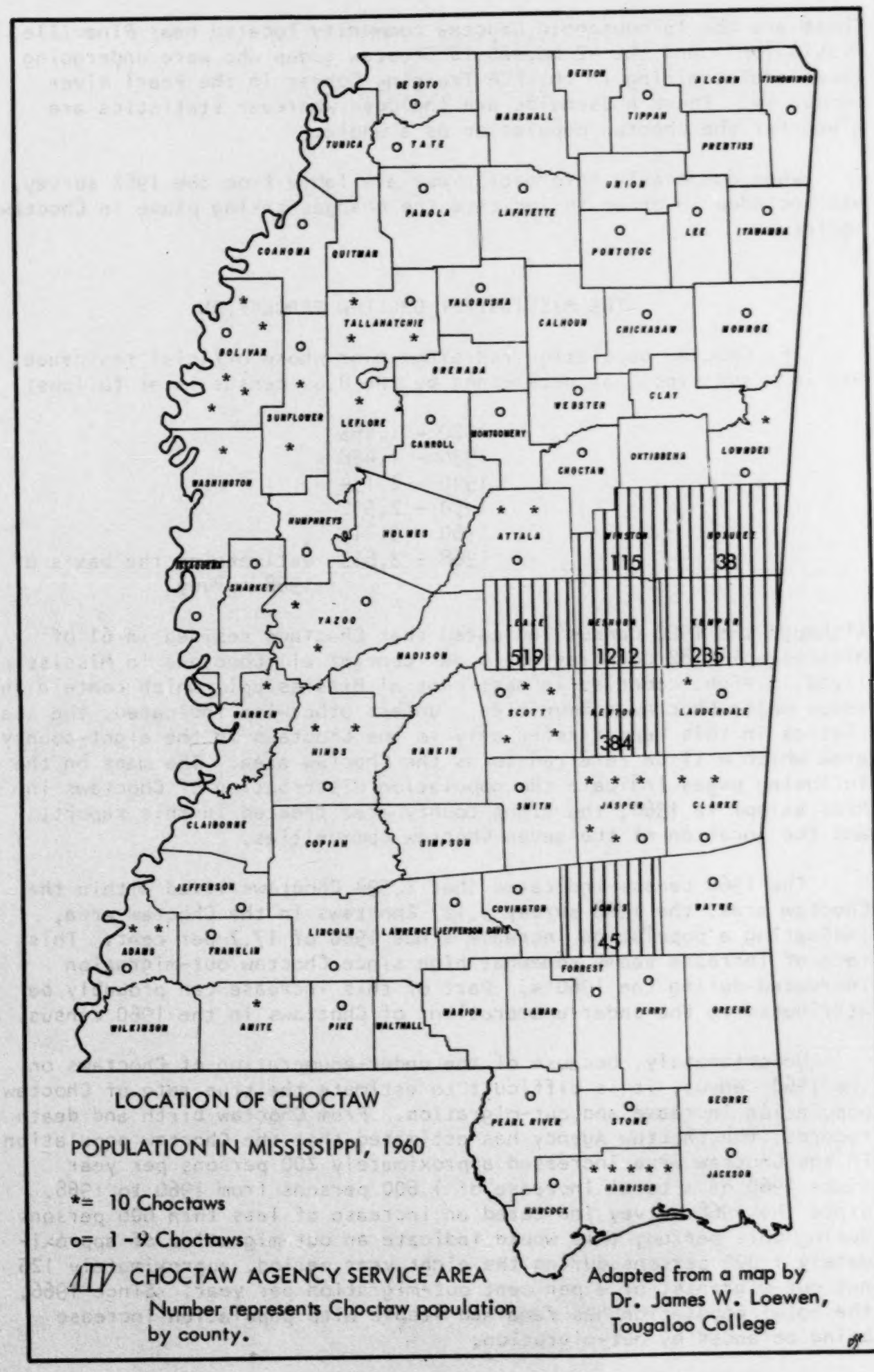
The Choctaw population residing in or whose official residence was in Mississippi, as determined by the U.S. census is as follows:

1920 - 1,105	
1930 - 1,458	
1940 - 2,134	
1950 - 2,502	
1960 - 3,119	
1968 - 3,653	estimate on the basis of 1968 survey

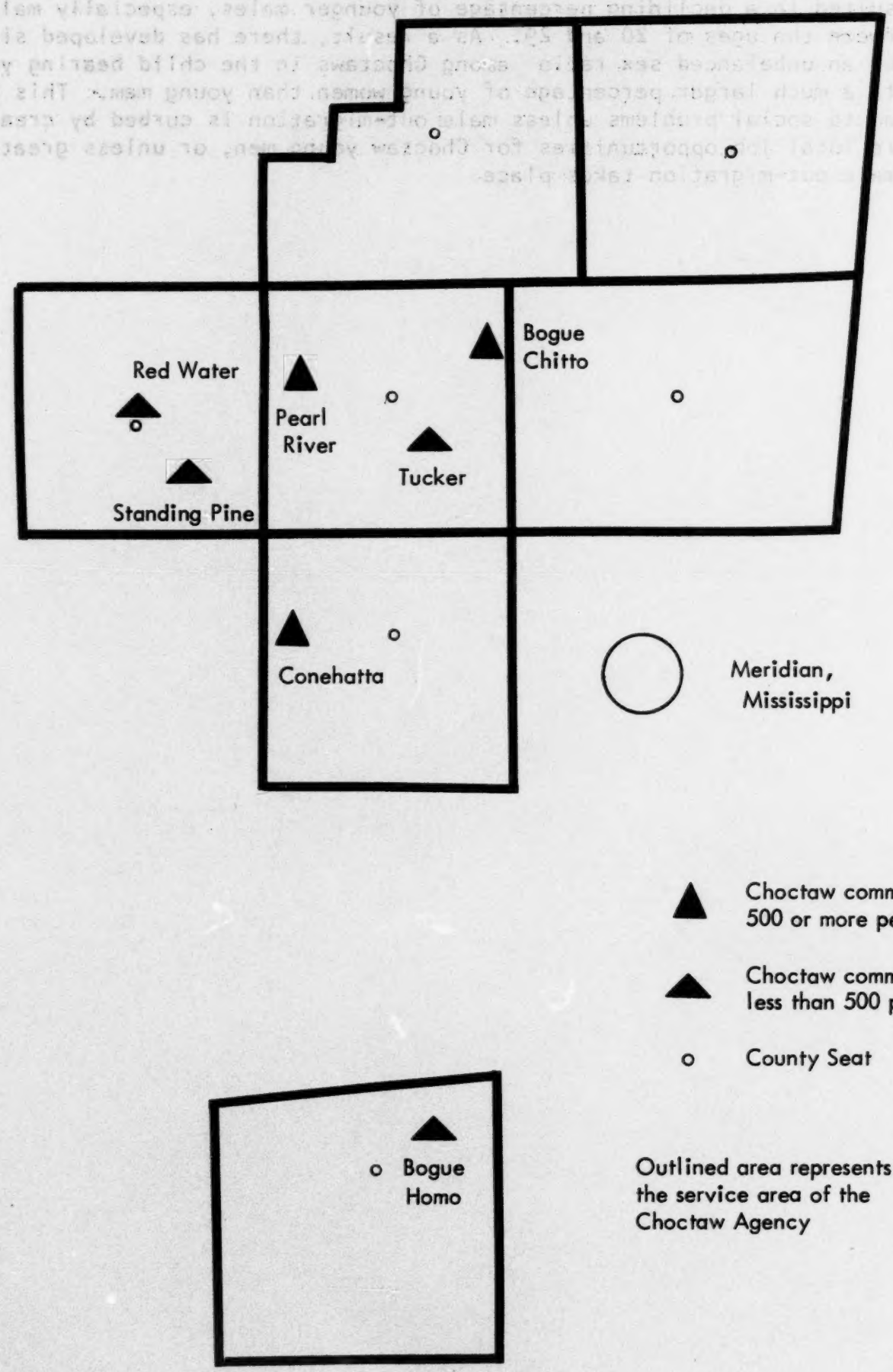
Although the 1960 census indicated that Choctaws resided in 61 of Mississippi's 82 counties, 83.0 per cent of all Choctaws in Mississippi lived in eight counties in east central Mississippi, which contain the seven major Choctaw communities. Unless otherwise indicated, the statistics in this report refer only to the Choctaws in the eight-county area which will be referred to as the Choctaw area. The maps on the following pages indicate the population distribution of Choctaws in Mississippi in 1960, the eight county area treated in this report, and the location of the seven Choctaw communities.

The 1960 census indicated that 2,594 Choctaws lived within the Choctaw area; the 1968 survey 3,127 Choctaws in the Choctaw area, indicating a population increase since 1960 of 17.2 per cent. This rate of increase seems somewhat high since Choctaw out-migration increased during the 1960's. Part of this increase can probably be attributed to the under-enumeration of Choctaws in the 1960 census.

Unfortunately, because of the under-enumeration of Choctaws on the 1960 census, it is difficult to estimate the true rate of Choctaw population increase and out-migration. From Choctaw birth and death records, the Choctaw Agency has estimated that the Choctaw population in the Choctaw area increased approximately 200 persons per year since 1960 or a total increase of 1,600 persons from 1960 to 1968. Since the 1968 survey indicated an increase of less than 600 persons during this period, this would indicate an out-migration of approximately 1,000 persons during the eight year period, approximately 125 net out-migrants, or 4 per cent out-migration per year. Since 1966, the total population has remained stable with population increase being balanced by out-migration.


DE SOTO
BENTON
ALCORN
TISHOMINGO
MARSHALL
TIPPAN
TUNICA
TATE
PRENTISS
UNION
PANOLA
LAFAYETTE
LEE
ITAWAMBA
COAHOMA
QUITMAN
PONTOTOC
YALOBUSHA
CALHOUN
CHICKASAW
MONROE
TALLAHATCHIE
BOLIVAR
GRENADA
CLAY
WEBSTER
SUNFLOWER
LEFLORE
CARROLL
MONTGOMERY
OKTIBBEHA
LOWNDES
CHOCTAW
WASHINGTON
HUMPHREYS
HOLMES
ATTALA
WINSTON
115
NOXUBEE
38
SHARKEY
YAZOO
LEAKE
519
MESHOBA
1212
KEMPER
235
MADISON
SCOTT
NEWTON
384
LAUDERDALE
WARREN
HINDS
RANKIN
SMITH
JASPER
CLARKE
CLAIBORNE
COPIAH
SIMPSON
JEFFERSON
COVINGTON
JONES
45
WAYNE
ADAMS
FRANKLIN
LINCOLN
LAWRENCE
JEFFERSON DAVIS
FORREST
WILKINSON
AMITE
PIKE
WALTHALL
MARION
LAMAR
PERRY
GREENE
GEORGE
PEARL RIVER
STONE
JACKSON
HARRISON
HANCOCK
LOCATION OF CHOCTAW
POPULATION IN MISSISSIPPI, 1960
*= 10 Choctaws
o= 1 - 9 Choctaws
CHOCTAW AGENCY SERVICE AREA
Number represents Choctaw population by county.
Adapted from a map by
Dr. James W. Loewen,
Tougaloo College

LOCATION OF CHOCTAW COMMUNITIES IN MISSISSIPPI



The impact of this out-migration on the total Choctaw population is indicated by the tables on the following page. Out-migration has resulted in a declining percentage of younger males, especially males between the ages of 20 and 29. As a result, there has developed since 1960 an unbalanced sex ratio among Choctaws in the child bearing years with a much larger percentage of young women than young mem. This could lead to social problems unless male out-migration is curbed by creating more local job opportunities for Choctaw young men, or unless greater female out-migration takes place.

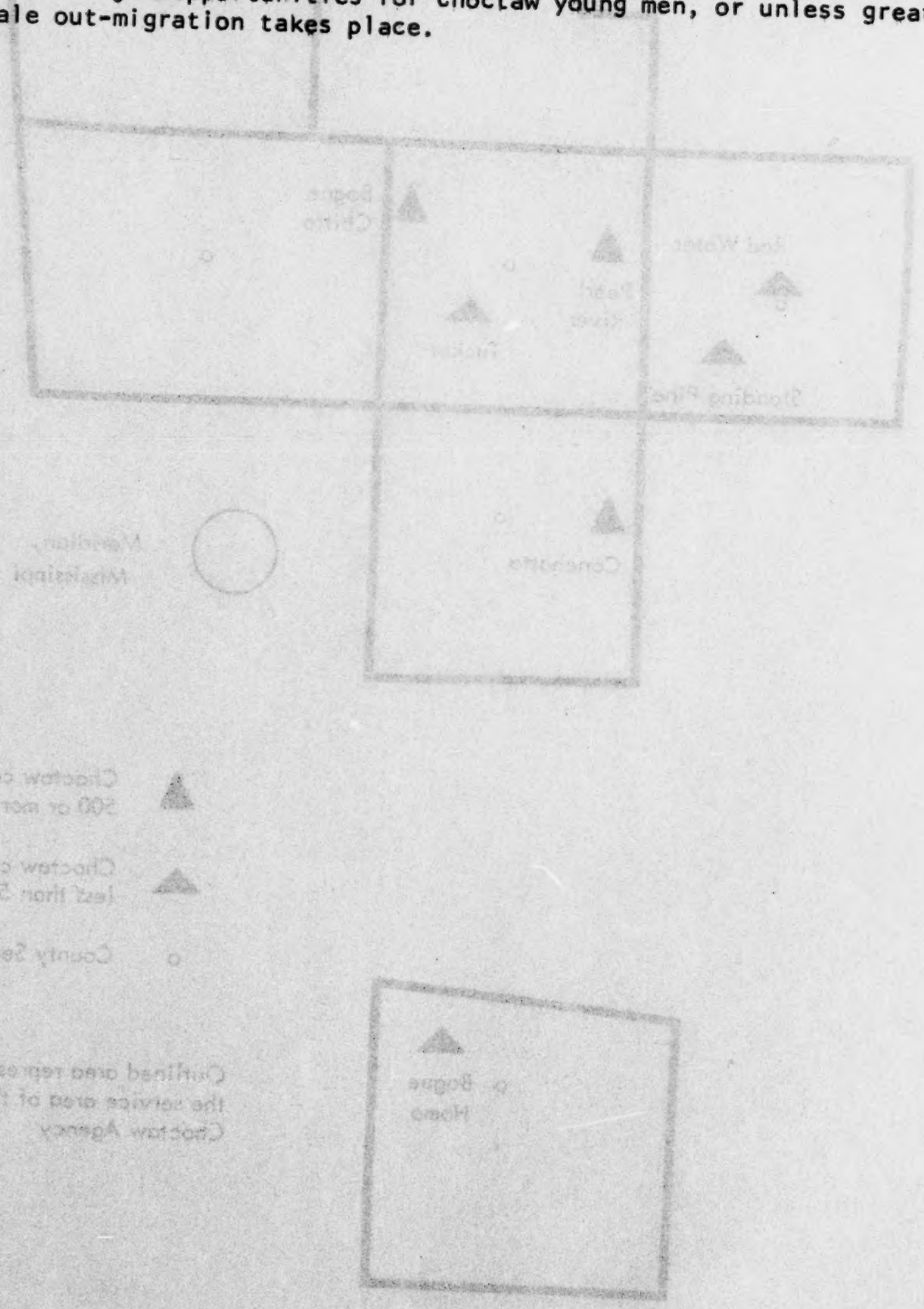


Table 1. Population of ALL CHOCTAW COMMUNITIES

	Total Population December 1968		Amount of Change March 1966 to December 1968	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
65 and over	57	64	+17	+33
45-64	176	177	+19	+21
35-44	125	159	-23	-9
25-34	173	221	+5	+18
Under 25	969	1,006	-53	-22
TOTAL	1,500	1,627	-35	+41

Grand Total Population 3,127

Total Sex Ratio
% Male 48.0%
% Female 52.0%

Sex Ratio Age 25-34
%Male 44.0%
%Female 56.0%

% Loss Male -2.3%
% Gain Female 2.5%
Total % Gain of Total Population 0.2%

Table 2. Population of PEARL RIVER AND RCA

	Total Population December 1968		Amount of Change March 1966 to December 1968	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
65 and over	18	13	+7	+3
45-64	40	42	+6	+2
35-44	42	42	+13	+6
25-34	50	63	+25	+23
Under 25	287	286	+129	+105
TOTAL	437	446	+180	+139

The total population of Pearl River and RCA increased 36.1% from March 1966 to December 1968.

Table 3. Population of PEARL RIVER (NOT INCLUDING RCA)

	Total Population December 1968		Amount of Change March 1966 to December 1968	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
65 and over	17	13	+6	+3
45-64	38	42	+4	+2
35-44	26	33	-3	-3
25-34	34	43	+9	+3
Under 25	202	194	+44	+13
TOTAL	317	325	60	18

The total population of Pearl River increased 12.1% from March 1966 to December 1968.

Table 4. Population of BOGUE CHITTO

	Total Population December 1968		Amount of Change March 1966 to December 1968	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
65 and over	14	25	+1	+18
45-64	45	43	-1	+2
35-44	24	31	-15	-8
25-34	46	51	-3	---
Under 25	234	225	-82	-56
TOTAL	363	375	-100	-44

The total population of Bogue Chitto decreased 19.5% from March 1966 to December 1968.

Table 5. Population of CONNEHATTA (INCLUDING PINEVILLE)

	Total Population December 1968		Amount of Change March 1966 to December 1968	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
65 and over	7	12	+2	+7
45-64	33	26	+8	+3
35-44	13	31	-11	-7
25-34	33	42	+5	+10
Under 25	162	185	-1	+14
TOTAL	248	296	+3	+27

The total population of Connehatta (including Pineville) had increased 5.5% from March 1966 to December 1968.

Table 6. Population of RED WATER

	Total Population December 1968		Amount of Change March 1966 to December 1968	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
65 and over	4	4	-3	--
45-64	17	25	+5	6
35-44	23	19	+4	+1
25-34	17	32	-13	-2
Under 25	110	130	-14	-8
TOTAL	171	210	-21	-3

The total population of Red Water decreased 6.3% from March 1966 to December 1968.

Table 7. Population of STANDING PINE

	Total Population December 1968		Amount of Change March 1966 to December 1968	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
65 and over	6	2	+3	-1
45-64	11	9	-2	--
35-44	9	14	-2	+4
25-34	12	16	-4	-7
Under 25	75	80	-10	+4
TOTAL	113	121	-15	---

The total population of Standing Pine decreased 6.4% from March 1966 to December 1968.

Table 8. Population of Tucker

	Total Population December 1968		Amount of Change March 1966 to December 1968	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
65 and over	6	7	+3	+1
45-64	25	25	+8	+7
35-44	11	19	-7	-2
25-34	11	12	-2	-5
Under 25	86	73	-21	-40
TOTAL	139	136	-19	-39

The total population of Tucker decreased 21.1% from March 1966 to December 1968.

Table 9. Population of BOGUE HOMO

	Total Population December 1968		Amount of Change March 1966 to December 1968	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
65 and over	2	1	+2	+1
45-64	5	7	+1	+3
35-44	3	3	-5	--
25-34	4	5	+2	-4
Under 25	15	27	-14	-4
TOTAL	29	43	-14	-4

The total population of Bogue Homo decreased 25.0% from March 1966 to December 1968.

Table 10. Farm or Nonfarm Residency (in percentages by community and total)

Type Residency	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.3
Farm	14.9	54.7	13.8	4.5	23.1	22.3	13.3	23.1	32.5
Rural Nonfarm	77.2	41.5	79.3	70.1	74.3	74.4	86.7	70.0	67.2
Urban	7.0	3.8	6.9	25.4	2.6	3.3	0	6.7	--
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570*	

The 1962 survey did not classify any Choctaw households as living in a town of over 2,500 people, although probably some should have been so classified. While the exact percentage of change may be questioned, it is clear that increasing numbers of Choctaw households are moving into housing at the edges of nearby towns.

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* Total households on all tables include 57 households not included in the seven individual communities as discussed on page 4.

Table 11. Residency on or off Tribal Land

Location of house	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	0.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	
On Tribal Land	60.5	20.7	50.0	38.8	33.3	46.7	80.0	45.4	41.3
On Non-Tribal Land	38.6	79.3	50.0	61.2	66.7	53.3	20.0	54.4	58.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

At the same time some Choctaw households are moving to the edges of nearby towns, there is an increasing concentration of Choctaw households on tribal land. These two divergent movements are both made possible by the increasing numbers of Choctaws receiving wage jobs, freeing them from the need to live on isolated individual farms. The movement onto tribal land has been facilitated by the building of additional houses on tribal land. The 1962 survey did not distinguish between those households on and those off tribal land. This information is available for 1966 and thus the approximately 4 per cent shift from off to on tribal land represents only a 32 month period during which 45 new houses were constructed on tribal land. During this same period, the percentage of the total Choctaw population living on tribal land increased over 10 per cent, indicating that the movement onto tribal land was primarily undertaken by families with children. The population shift to tribal land has continued with the occupation of an additional 35 new houses since the completion of the 1968 survey, and more houses are currently under construction. This trend toward population consolidation is reducing the rural social isolation of the Choctaw population, but its success in the long run depends on the continued expansion of wage jobs.

Table 12. Type of Household (Percentages by Community)

Type of Household	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.9
Extended	14.0	25.5	19.0	22.5	25.6	9.9	13.4	17.2	22.0
Nuclear	86.0	74.5	81.0	77.5	74.4	90.1	86.6	82.8	77.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

A nuclear family includes only the head of the household and the homemaker, or the head only, or the homemaker only, and their children. An extended family includes additional individuals related either through marriage (such as daughter's husband) or by blood (such as homemaker's sister). Research with other Indian groups suggests that low or unstable income is a major factor in contributing to extended households. The decline in extended households among the Choctaws as indicated by Table 12, can be expected to continue as stable wage job opportunities increase.

Table 13. Education of Head (Percentages by Community)

Degree of Education	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	0	1.5	1.7	4.5	0	0	0	1.1	7.1
None or less than 1 year	25.4	67.8	24.1	16.4	17.9	22.2	40.0	33.1	32.3
1-3	11.4	10.0	13.8	22.4	17.9	20.0	13.3	15.1	12.4
4	9.7	4.6	10.3	6.0	12.8	7.8	0	7.9	6.2
5-7	20.2	11.5	27.7	29.8	36.0	28.9	26.6	23.2	27.5
8	7.9	0	12.1	11.9	2.6	5.6	6.7	6.7	7.7
9-11	14.0	3.1	8.6	9.0	7.7	10.0	6.7	8.6	6.2
12	7.9	1.5	1.7	0	0	2.2	0	2.5	0.6
13 or more and/or college graduate	3.5	0	0	0	5.1	3.3	6.7	1.8	0

Table 14. Education of Homemaker (In Percentages)

Degree of Education	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	1.7	7.6
None or less than 1 year	27.7	30.7
1-3	14.4	23.0
4	6.7	25.3
5-7	26.1	6.2
8	7.9	6.2
9-11	9.3	1.0
12	3.8	0
13 or more	2.4	0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

There has been little change in the education of Choctaw heads of households as a result of the continuing out-migration, better educated Choctaw young men. There has been a noticeable improvement in the education of Choctaw homemakers reflecting the tendancy for younger, better educated Choctaw women to remain in the Choctaw communities. As a result of the difference in out-migration between young men and women, Choctaw homemakers are now better educated than

Choctaw heads of household. The magnitude of this change is most noticeable in those receiving 9 or more years of education. From 1962 to 1968 the percentage of Choctaw heads of household having 9 or more years of education increased from 6.8 to 12.9 per cent. During the same period, the percentage of Choctaw homemakers having 9 or more years of education increased from 1.0 to 15.5 per cent. This clearly indicates that the general level of education in the Choctaw communities will improve only gradually, so long as the better educated youth leave the Choctaw communities to seek better ooportunities elsewhere.

The pattern of education by communities for Choctaw heads of household and homemakers is essentially the same. Communities with higher percentages of heads of households finishing 9 or more years of school are also the communities in which the level of education desired for children is the highest.

The increasing number of heads of households and homemakers completing 12 or more years of school will have an increasing impact on both the educational climate and community leadership in Choctaw communities in coming years.

Table 15. Present Occupation of Head (Percentages by Community)

Type of Occupation	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.4	1.5
Unemployed, disabled, retired	29.7	20.8	31.0	43.2	25.6	42.2	26.6	28.9	26.3
Farm operator or manager	3.5	27.7	0	0	12.8	5.6	6.7	8.9	31.7
Farm laborer or foreman	10.5	16.9	6.9	6.0	7.7	11.1	20.0	10.2	16.7
Mgr., prop., prof., tech.	5.3	0	0	3.0	0	1.1	0	1.6	0.6
Sales or clerical	0	0	1.7	1.5	2.6	1.1	0	0.7	0.6
Craftsman/foreman	5.3	0.8	5.2	3.0	0	4.4	0	2.8	1.9
Domestic or service	12.3	2.3	5.2	4.5	0	5.6	0	4.8	2.2
Operative	9.7	12.3	10.3	20.9	23.1	10.0	6.7	12.1	4.6
Nonfarm laborer	23.7	19.2	39.7	17.9	28.2	18.9	40.0	22.6	13.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

The greatest shift in Choctaw employment has been the decline in farm operators and/or laborers. The bulk of Choctaw farm operators are actually tenant farmers or sharecroppers. The decline in cotton allotments and myriad other factors reducing the profits from small farming operations are causing a sharp decrease in Choctaw tenant farmers and sharecroppers. This shift was accelerated by an adult vocational education program aimed primarily at younger sharecroppers. Many former sharecroppers have become seasonally employed farm laborers. At the same time, there has been an increase in Choctaws employed holding regular, wage jobs in dairying, poultry and lumber operations. This shift to agriculturally related wage jobs has not required major upgrading in education or skill levels of the Choctaws. Conversly, the great increase in Choctaws employed as operators or laborers in non-farm occupations, especially in manufacturing, has required somewhat better education, job skills, use of the English language and a vastly different orientation to work. However, the increase in Choctaws employed in more specialized job categories such as service, craftsmen and foremen, and management and technical occupations has been very small. These positions require a greater degree of education and training, and at present most younger Choctaws receiving better educations or training tend not to return to the Choctaw communities, after receiving their training.

Table 16. Present Occupation of Homemaker (Percentages by Community)

Type of Occupation	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	0	0	2.4	0	0	0	0	8.6	1.3
No employed, disabled, retired	58.6	74.8	70.8	53.5	61.3	75.0	87.5	62.8	91.1
Farm operator or manager	0	4.0	0	2.3	0	0	0	1.2	1.0
Farm laborer or foreman	1.2	10.1	0	0	3.2	1.7	12.5	3.3	2.0
Mgr., prop., prof. tech.	.1.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0
Sales or clerical	2.4	0	2.4	0	0	0	0	0.7	0
Craftsman/foreman	0	0	0	0	3.2	0	0	0.2	0.3
Domestic or service	19.5	7.1	9.8	9.3	6.5	8.3	0	9.3	4.3
Operative or laborer	17.1	4.0	14.6	34.9	25.8	15.0	0	13.7	0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	82	99	41	43	31	60	8	376	

As can be seen from Table 16, only 7.6 per cent of Choctaw homemakers were employed in 1962. At that time, almost half of all Choctaw households were engaged in farming in one farm or another, and most Choctaw women in these households assisted their husbands as unpaid family workers. With the current decline in Choctaws participating in farming, a smaller number of Choctaw women are unpaid family workers, and an increasing number of women are engaged in wage occupations.

Table 17. Age of Head

(Percentages by Community)

Age	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.2
Under 20 yrs.	0	0.8	1.7	0	0	0	0	0.7	2.5
20-29	11.4	13.9	12.1	13.4	17.9	20.0	13.3	16.5	23.2
30-39	20.2	21.4	15.5	25.4	28.2	21.0	20.1	23.3	23.9
40-44	14.0	10.8	12.1	11.9	7.7	7.8	13.3	11.2	13.9
45-49	13.2	10.0	19.0	13.4	10.3	15.6	13.3	12.5	7.1
50-54	8.8	12.3	6.9	7.5	5.1	10.0	6.7	8.6	6.8
55-64	14.0	16.9	22.3	19.4	15.4	12.2	13.3	14.6	11.8
65-74	14.9	10.8	6.9	4.5	12.8	7.8	6.7	8.9	6.5
75 or more	3.5	3.1	3.5	4.5	2.6	5.6	13.3	3.7	3.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

Table 18. Age of Homemaker

(In Percentages)

Age	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	0	1.7
Under 20	1.4	5.4
20-29	24.2	24.7
30-39	28.1	31.1
40-44	14.8	11.1
45-54	17.5	12.8
55-64	9.3	9.1
65-74	4.5	2.7
75 or more	0.2	1.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

Choctaw heads of households and homemakers tend to be younger than Negro or White heads of households and homemakers in the Choctaw area. Although the modal age of both heads of household and homemakers remains between 30 and 39, there has been a decline in both heads and homemakers below 30 and an increase in both heads and homemakers 40 and above.

Table 19. Sex of Head (Percentages by Community)

Sex	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male with wife	71.0	76.1	70.7	62.6	79.5	65.5	60.0	73.0	83.3
Male without wife	12.3	10.0	6.9	9.0	7.7	8.9	13.3	8.9	--
Female	16.7	13.9	22.4	28.4	12.8	25.6	26.7	18.1	16.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

The 1962 survey did not distinguish between males with a wife and males without a wife.

While the percentage of households headed by females is increasing slightly, it is still far lower than many poverty groups. However, the greater out-migration of young males is leaving many young Choctaw women with reduced chances for marriage. If more Choctaw young men are not encouraged to remain in the area through better job opportunities, or more young Choctaw women migrate elsewhere, the unbalanced sex ratio could lead to a significant increase in families composed of only a female and her off-spring.

Table 20. What Kind of Work Would Head Like Most To Do? (Percentages by Community)

Type of Occupation	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	14.9	16.2	15.5	25.4	20.4	14.4	20.0	16.4	53.0
Farm operation or manager	10.5	26.9	5.2	0	18.0	6.7	13.3	11.5	21.5
Farm laborer or foreman	6.1	4.6	0	3.0	5.1	2.2	13.3	3.9	0.6
Manager, prop., prof., tech.	10.5	3.1	5.2	0	0	1.1	0	3.9	1.2
Sales or clerical	0.9	0	1.7	1.5	2.6	1.1	0	0.9	0.6
Craftsman/foreman	8.8	1.5	19.0	9.0	2.6	12.3	6.7	7.7	4.6
Domestic or service worker	13.2	6.2	10.3	11.9	2.6	23.3	20.0	10.8	4.6
Operative, laborer	25.5	36.9	25.9	31.3	30.7	15.6	26.7	32.9	10.5
Retire	9.6	3.8	17.2	17.9	18.0	23.3	0	11.8	3.4
Military service	0	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0.2	0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

In the 1962 survey, over half of the Choctaw heads of households declined to indicate a work preference. At this time almost half of all Choctaw men were employed as farmers or farm laborers. Most stated

that farming was no longer a desirable occupation, but apparently they knew of few other opportunities for work. The sharp decline in heads of household having no opinion about the type work they would prefer, in 1968, indicates that Choctaws are more familiar with various job possibilities than they were in 1962. They apparently are more aware of local job opportunities. In comparing specific choices of work, the greatest decline is seen in the percentage choosing farming, and the greatest increase is in the percentage choosing non-farm or operative laborer jobs. This was usually expressed by them in terms of "factory work" with no skill level indicated. While Choctaw heads of households are increasingly aware of and desire jobs which require more education or training, most of them do not recognize their lack of education as constituting a barrier to their occupational mobility.

Table 21. Total Choctaw Employment

	March 1966		December 1968	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total Labor Force	561	504	557	375
Permanently Employed	206	130	369	187
Temporarily Employed	315	55	158	111
Unemployed	40	319	30	77

Data for this table was computed by the Employment Assistance Branch of the Choctaw Agency from the 1968 survey. Total labor force represents all Choctaws 16 years of age or older who were not in school, disabled, over 65, or women for whom there were no child care substitutes. The decline in the number of women in the labor force and women unemployed is a result of more accurate information about the number of women who can not work because they have no one to care for their children, and thus does not represent any change in the status of Choctaw women. However, the other changes indicated in the table do represent changes in the status of the Choctaw labor force. Persons classified as permanently employed are persons who can expect to hold the same job for 12 months, and would thus include both regular wage employees as well as sharecroppers or farmers. It would not include day laborers. The table indicates that there has been a 44.2 percent increase in permanently employed men. The increase in permanently employed men has resulted in a sharp decline in men temporarily employed. There has been a 30.5 per cent increase in women permanently employed, but at the same time women temporarily employed has increased 50.5 per cent, indicating a great increase in women classified as employed. Many of these women who are classified as temporarily employed previously worked on family farms and hence were not classified as employed. While this table is not directly comparable with the tables on employment of heads of households and homemakers, the great shift in permanently employed Choctaws would indicate that movement into permanent jobs is more often being made by younger Choctaws than heads of households and homemakers. The

increased employment of women as a whole as compared with homemakers is particularly noticeable. The increased wage employment of Choctaw women is not only contributing to household income, but it will have an increasing impact on the Choctaw family as women become increasingly exposed to life and life styles outside Choctaw communities.

Table 22. Education Level of Mississippi Choctaws

Grades of school completed	Per cent by Age Categories						
	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65 & over	TOTAL
0-3	6.4	14.0	29.8	42.5	64.6	92.1	38.2
4-7	25.2	25.6	32.6	43.7	29.5	5.3	29.8
8-11	65.6	39.2	24.5	9.1	4.6	2.6	24.2
12	2.4	12.5	8.0	2.5	.5	-	4.7
13-15	.4	8.3	4.8	1.1	.8	-	2.8
16 or more	0	.4	.3	1.1	0	-	.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Median grade completed	9	9	6	4	2	0	6

The data in this table indicate the increasing educational achievement of younger Choctaws. The median grade completed would be even higher for younger Choctaws if the better educated Choctaws were not leaving the Choctaw communities for better opportunities elsewhere. It should be noted that many of the Choctaws in the age catagory of 16 to 19 are still in school and therefore have not had time to complete the higher levels of education obtained by older Choctaws.

Table 23. Total Cash Income for the Household (Percentages by Community)

Amount of Cash Income	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
$1-499	.9	3.1	1.7	3.0	-	2.2	-	1.9	31.7
$500-999	11.4	7.7	5.2	4.5	7.7	8.9	26.7	8.1	21.9
$1,000-1,999	14.9	34.6	32.7	20.9	15.4	33.4	20.0	25.0	31.1
$2,000-2,999	15.8	20.0	13.8	13.4	23.1	14.4	40.0	21.1	6.7
$3,000-3,999	14.0	13.8	20.7	17.9	20.5	12.2	13.3	15.6	5.0
$4,000-4,999	9.6	5.4	13.8	16.4	17.9	10.0	-	10.0	3.6*
$5,000-9,999	30.8	14.6	12.1	20.9	12.8	16.7	-	16.7	-
$10,000 and above	2.6	.8	-	3.0	2.6	2.2	-	1.6	-
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

*The 3.6 figure in the 1962 column represents households making over $4,000, not between $4,000 and $4,999.

Household income in 1968 as compared with 1962 has greatly increased, and households are more evenly distributed throughout different income levels. In 1962, 84.7 per cent of Choctaw households made less than $2000 cash income, whereas in 1968, only 34.9 per cent made less than $2000. In 1962, only 3.6 per cent of Choctaw households made over $4000 cash income, whereas in 1968, 28.3 per cent made over $4000. However, this change in household income is exaggerated by two factors. In the first place, inflation between 1962 and 1968 has varied from 4 to 6 per cent per year. If the income figures were adjusted for inflation, the difference would be somewhat less. Secondly, this table lists only cash income. In 1962, large numbers of Choctaw sharecroppers received most of their food and supplies from their landlord or from "family" gardens, and as a result, their cash income reflects only the difference between this "furnish" and the value of the crop. If the cost of this "furnish" were included as income, the differences between 1968 and 1962 income would be somewhat less. Household income must also be considered in light of household size. Since the average Choctaw household contains 5.5 members, it can be seen that the majority of the Choctaw people are still below the poverty line.

Table 24. Condition of House and Ownership of Consumer Items

House and Consumer Items	Percentage of households	
	1968	1962
Houses over 30 years old	53.7	-
Piped water in house	37.3	12.0
Indoor toilet	22.0	4.0
Running hot water	20.4	3.1
Bath or shower	21.3	2.2
Electricity	90.1	72.8
House heated by wood or coal	62.7	75.5
Electric or gas stove	81.7	36.5
Refrigerator, electric or gas	82.0	26.0
Radio	81.2	55.7
TV	75.4	35.9
Automobile	66.0	31.6
Truck	13.3	10.8
Daily newspaper	7.6	7.1
Weekly newspaper	16.5	7.1
Magazine	12.4	19.2

Ownership of consumer items indicates a great change in the Choctaw communities in the past six years. The decline in the rural isolation of the Choctaws is indicated by the fact that ownership of TV's and automobiles has doubled in six years. At the same time, approximately 20 per cent of Choctaw households remain isolated in their rural communities lacking both transportation and radios or TV's. Improvement in plumbing and sanitary facilities has also been dramatic, but almost

80 per cent of Choctaw households still lack these facilities. Home heating remains inadequate with almost two-thirds of Choctaw households dependent on burning wood for heat, in the majority of cases in open fireplaces and wood burning ranges.

Table 25. Language Spoken at Home (Percentages by Community)

Type of Language	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968
No information	2.7	8.4	-	3.0	5.2	10.0	-	5.4
Choctaw	59.6	83.8	74.1	79.1	69.2	72.2	86.6	74.0
English	5.3	3.9	10.4	3.0	7.6	13.3	13.4	6.7
Both	32.4	3.9	15.5	14.9	18.0	3.3	-	13.7
Other	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	-	.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570

Table 26. Head of Household's Use of English (Percentages by Community)

Degree of Use of English	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
Excellent	13.1	2.4	6.9	-	2.6	4.5	-	4.7	2.9
Good	34.2	7.8	41.3	44.7	35.9	46.6	13.4	32.8	78.1*
Fair	41.2	56.4	25.9	38.8	43.5	38.9	46.6	43.6	
Poor	11.5	33.4	25.9	16.5	18.0	10.0	40.0	18.9	19.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

*Tabulation of 1962 data made no distinction between good and fair.

This table is based on a self evaluation of use of English, made in response to the question: "How well do you (or does _____) read, write, speak and understand English?" No attempt was made to establish the actual proficiency of use of English. As tabulated above, excellent indicates an excellent rating in all four categories; good indicates a rating of good or excellent in reading and writing; fair indicates a rating of good or excellent in any two categories; poor indicates a rating of good or excellent on one or no categories. The data indicates that there has been almost no change in the self-evaluation of the head of household's use of English. The following two tables were compiled on the same basis as this table.

Table 27. Homemaker's Use of English (In percentages)

Degree of Use of English	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
Excellent	5.2	4.1
Good	39.1	65.1*
Fair	30.5	
Poor	25.2	30.8
TOTAL	100.0	100.0

*Tabulation of 1962 data makes no distinction between good and fair.

The pattern for use of English by community is approximately the same for homemakers as for heads of households. While a larger percentage of homemakers than heads of household continue to have a poor use of English, the difference between the two groups is slightly less in 1968 than in 1962.

Table 28. Family Use of English (Percentages by Community)

Degree of Use of English	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	-	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	.7	2.2
Excellent	10.5	.8	1.8	-	2.6	3.4	-	3.2	4.0
Good	24.6	4.6	29.3	22.4	20.5	30.0	13.4	20.4	55.4*
Fair	54.4	56.1	46.5	70.1	71.7	56.6	60.0	58.2	
Poor	10.5	36.1	22.4	7.5	5.2	10.0	26.6	17.5	38.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

*Tabulation of 1962 data makes no distinction between good and fair.

Table 28 is based on a composite rating for the entire household. In households rated excellent, all members of the household above the age of seven rate excellent by the criteria given following Table 26. Comparison with 1962 data indicates that while there has been no significant change in families rated excellent, there has been a marked decrease in families rated poor. This decrease in percentage of families rated poor is even greater than the decrease in homemakers rated poor. This change probably reflects the loss through death of older household members using little English and their replacement by children who use more English.

Table 29. Choice of School

Type or School	
No information	4.9
Bureau of Indian Affairs School	63.5
Public School	21.4
Not Applicable	10.2
TOTAL	100.0

There was little variation among communities in percent of households prefering Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, including the Bogue Homo community in which all Indian Choctaw children currently attend public schools. It should be remembered that this survey was taken before the dual system of education was abolished in the public schools of Mississippi.

Table 30. Amount of Education Desired for Male Children

Education Desired for Male Children	(Percentages by Community)							
	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL
No information	3.5	10.0	5.2	3.0	5.1	1.1	-	4.7
Less than 12 years	.9	3.1	-	1.5	5.1	-	6.7	3.0
High school degree	29.8	43.8	34.5	32.8	38.6	36.7	40.0	38.7
Some college or technical school	.9	.8	-	-	-	-	-	.4
College degree	47.3	21.6	36.1	41.3	28.2	43.3	46.6	34.6
All they can get	5.3	9.2	5.2	5.0	5.1	-	-	3.7
Not applicable	12.3	11.5	19.0	16.4	17.9	18.9	6.7	14.9
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570

Amount of education desired for female children was almost identical with amount of education desired for male children. Community of residence does greatly affect amount of education desired for children. Lack of mention of post high school technical school probably represents a lack of knowledge of possibilities for training in this area.

Table 31. Desired Future Residence of Male Children

Future Residence of Male Children	(Percentages by Community)							
	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL
No information	1.6	5.4	1.7	1.5	2.6	1.1	-	2.5
Stay in this area	33.4	35.4	41.4	26.9	23.1	26.7	13.0	32.1
Leave this area	.9	.8	-	-	-	1.1	-	1.2
Stay or leave as the child wishes	51.8	46.9	37.9	55.2	56.4	53.3	80.0	49.5
Not applicable	12.3	11.5	19.0	16.4	17.9	17.8	7.0	14.7
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570

Desired future residence for female children was almost identical with desired future residence for male children.

Table 32. Service in Armed Forces

	1968	1962
Heads of household having served in the Armed Forces	97	51
Members of household other than head having served in the Armed Forces	66	7

The data in Table 32 indicates that currently far more Choctaw men are serving in the Armed Forces and returning to live in the Choctaw communities than in the past.

Table 33. Lived Outside an Indian Community in Mississippi

Residency outside an Indian community	(Percentages by Community)							TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.		
No information	-	4.6	-	3.0	-	-	-	1.4	2.5
Yes	31.6	12.3	25.9	16.4	12.8	25.6	13.3	23.3	8.4
No	68.4	83.1	74.1	80.6	87.2	74.4	86.7	75.3	89.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

The data in this table indicates a great increase in the percent of Choctaw households containing individuals or family units having lived for a period of time outside the Indian communities in Mississippi, later returning to the Choctaw communities. As a result, far more Choctaws have, or are exposed to, information about working and living conditions outside the Choctaw communities. At the same time, over three-fourths of Choctaw households do not contain anyone who has lived outside the Choctaw communities. The table indicates considerable variation among communities. The communities with larger percentages of households having people who have lived outside the Choctaw communities are also the communities in which the level of education desired for children is highest.

Table 34. Length of Stay of Those Having Lived Outside an Indian Community

Length of time relocated	(Percentages in Community) TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	36.8	54.3
Less than 1 year	15.8	11.4
1-2 years	15.1	28.6
3-5 years	20.3	5.7
6 or more years	12.0	-
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	133	35

A nation wide study of Indian migration indicates that 30 per cent of migrants return to reservation areas within the same year that they were relocated. It is estimated that an additional 20 per cent return at a later date (Sorkin, Alan L., "American Indian Migration", Social Forces, Vol.48, p. 245). The data in this table would seem to indicate that in both 1962 and 1968, Choctaws were less likely to return from relocation within the first year than are Indians in general. Although the large percentage of "no information" responses make it difficult to be certain, 32.2 per cent of returnees in 1968 had lived elsewhere 3 or more years before returning as compared with 5.7 per cent in 1962. This would seem to be in response to the greater availability

of wage jobs for Choctaws since 1964 and to the better housing available on tribal land. Apparently many Choctaws who have successfully adjusted to life away from the Choctaw area, as indicated by their length of stay, preferred to return to the Choctaw communities when adequate jobs and housing became available.

Table 35. Reason for Returning from Relocation (In percentages)

Reasons	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	12.0	22.7
Didn't like location	6.0	8.6
Couldn't make enough money	4.5	8.6
Lost job or quit job	7.5	14.3
Drinking	.8	8.6
Homesick or sickness in family	27.8	14.3
Couldn't find job	0	14.3
Other	41.4	8.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	133	35

In 1962, most returnees mentioned a problem related to ability to adjust to a new environment as a reason for returning. In 1968, less than 19 per cent of returnees mentioned such problems. This percentage indicated that inability to adjust to relocation was no longer the major reason for returning to the Choctaw area. Particularly noticable is the decline in inability to find or keep a job as a reason for returning from 28.6 per cent in 1962 to 7.5 per cent in 1968. In 1968, 41.4 per cent of returnees gave a diversity of individual reasons why they preferred to return to the Choctaw communities. The desire for closer association with friends and relatives, together with the desire for their children to attend an Indian school seemed to predominate. Interviews with returnees indicated that many did not make definite decisions to return, but returned to visit and decided to remain after finding that job opportunities had improved.

Table 36. Satisfied to Live Where You Do

Indication of Satisfaction	(Percentages) TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No opinion or no information	5.3	2.6
Yes	88.4	86.2
No	6.3	11.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	570	

Heads of households not satisfied to live where they do declined slightly between 1962 and 1968.

Table 37. Considered Moving in the Past 5 Years

Indication of consideration of moving	(Percentages) TOTAL 1968
No information	14.2
Yes	25.1
No	60.7
TOTAL	100.0
Number of Households	570

Table 38. Where Would You Move? (Percentages by community)

Desired residence of those considering moving	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
Another residence in this community	89.2	48.5	87.5	88.0	85.7	88.2	-	74.4	45.7
Another Indian community	8.1	45.5	12.5	12.0	14.3	11.8	100.0	20.3	21.7
Elsewhere in the State	-	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	3.8	15.2
Elsewhere in the U.S.	2.7	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	1.5	17.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	37	33	8	25	7	17	1	133	

The responses in this table represent only those Choctaw households stating that they had considered moving in the past 5 years and who also mentioned a desired residence. The major shift shown in the table is the decline from 32.6 per cent of Choctaw heads of households considering moving away from the Choctaw communities in 1962 to only 5.3 per cent in 1968. This probably reflects the increased number of adequate wage jobs open to Choctaws in the local area since 1964. The community with the highest percentage of heads of households who considered moving to another Choctaw community or away from the Choctaw communities, is the community located furthest from available wage jobs in the area. It should be remembered that these are the opinions of heads of households rather than younger, better educated Choctaws who are continuing to move away from the Choctaw communities.

Table 39. Are Choctaw Social Relations with Non-Indians Better Today than 20 Years Ago? (Percentages by community)

Indication of Social Relations	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	2.6	9.2	5.2	7.5	7.7	3.3	-	5.2	32.2
Yes	95.6	82.3	77.6	85.0	82.0	94.5	100.0	87.9	46.7
No	1.8	8.5	8.6	4.5	7.7	1.1	-	5.1	11.5
Don't know	-	-	8.6	3.0	2.6	1.1	-	1.8	9.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

By several objective criteria, such as voter registration and admission of Choctaw children to previously all white schools, Choctaw social relations with non-Choctaws have greatly improved in the last few years. This is confirmed by the opinions of the Choctaws themselves both in terms of the percentage of heads of households who stated that relations were better and by the decline in the percentage declining to answer the question.

Table 40. Are Choctaw Economic Relations with Non-Indians Better Today than 20 Years Ago? (Percentages by community)

Indication of Economic Relations	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	4.4	9.2	5.2	6.0	5.1	-	6.7	4.9	33.8
Yes	94.7	82.3	82.7	86.5	87.2	97.8	93.3	89.1	40.2
No	.9	8.5	5.2	4.5	5.1	1.1	-	4.4	16.7
Don't know	-	-	6.9	3.0	2.6	1.1	-	1.6	9.3
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

Choctaw economic conditions have greatly improved since 1964 when Choctaws began to be hired for jobs previously reserved primarily for non-Choctaws. Choctaw opinions about the improvement in economic relations paralles very closely opinions about social relations.

Table 41. What Would You Say Are the Major Problems Faced by Your Community? (Percentages by Community)

Types of Problems	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	7.0	16.9	8.6	10.5	23.0	5.6	-	10.4	38.0
Social and educational, only	25.4	9.2	17.2	6.0	18.0	27.8	26.7	19.6	3.4
Economic and financial only	25.4	23.8	32.8	50.7	28.1	24.4	20.0	28.5	24.5
Medical only	-	.8	-	-	-	-	-	.2	-
Social, educational and economic and financial	9.7	13.1	19.0	11.9	2.6	2.2	6.7	9.6	5.0
Social, educational and medical	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economic, financial and medical	-	-	-	-	2.6	-	-	.2	-
Don't know	17.6	20.8	17.2	17.9	18.0	26.7	33.3	18.9	18.6
Not applicable, or no major prob.	14.9	15.4	5.2	3.0	7.7	13.3	13.3	12.6	10.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

Table 42. What Major Problems Do You Experience as a Family? (Percentages by Community)

Types of Problems	P.R.	B.C.	T.	R.W.	S.P.	C.	B.H.	TOTAL 1968	TOTAL 1962
No information	15.8	26.2	19.0	23.9	51.3	7.8	13.3	20.0	39.8
None	35.0	27.7	17.2	31.3	12.8	33.3	26.7	30.8	25.3
Drinking	3.5	.8	-	-	-	-	6.7	1.2	.6
Divorce	1.8	-	-	-	-	1.1	-	.5	.2
Low wages or not enough money	16.6	22.3	29.4	11.9	7.7	17.8	13.3	19.3	19.4
Lack of job opportunities or lack of education	7.9	1.5	3.4	4.5	2.6	2.2	-	3.5	2.4
Poor housing	8.8	6.2	8.6	16.4	12.8	16.7	20.0	10.0	.2
Illness and/or old age and bad health	-	3.8	1.7	-	-	1.1	-	1.2	3.0
More than one of the above	5.3	4.6	12.1	7.5	7.7	8.9	13.3	6.8	7.3
Others	5.3	6.9	8.6	4.5	5.1	11.1	6.7	6.7	1.8
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No. of Households	114	130	58	67	39	90	15	570	

The two tables above represent problems mentioned by Choctaw households pertaining to their community and their own family. The major change from 1962 to 1968 in both tables is a decline of almost 20 per cent in

heads of households not answering the question and a corresponding rise in certain problems mentioned. Since other tables clearly show that conditions have improved in the Choctaw communities within the past six years, this probably represents both an increased knowledge and understanding of problems and a greater willingness to mention them to interviewers.

The greatest change in community problems mentioned is the increase in percentage mentioning only social and educational problems. These problems were more likely to be mentioned in communities where the educational level of heads of households was highest and parents were more likely to desire higher levels of education for their children. While there was an increase in percentage mentioning social ard educational problems as community problems, there was no increase in the percentage of households mentioning these as problems for their own family. The greatest change in family problems was the increased percentage mentioning poor housing as a family problem. The new housing program on tribal land apparently has resulted in an increased dissatisfaction on the part of those households continuing to occupy inadequate housing.

These two tables seem to indicate heads of individual Choctaw households, in considering family problems, are primarily concerned with poor pay for less skilled jobs and inadequate housing. They are less likely to recognize the lack of education or training as a family problem, the solution of which could lead to the solution of other mentioned problems.